

11 December 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, LEOB/SRS

SUBJECT : *LEO 12/12/67*
NEW YORK TIMES Article of
6 December 1967 entitled
"Plot on Kennedy In Chicago Told"

The attached article reports that Abraham W. BOLDEN, former Secret Service agent who is now a prisoner at the Federal Medical Center at Springfield, Missouri told three lawyers that "the agency" had known before President KENNEDY's assassination that an attempt to kill him had been planned. The three lawyers were identified as Mark LANE, attorney and author of the controversial best seller, "Rush to Judgment," which is highly critical of the Warren Commission Report (LANE has been high in his praise of GARRISON's investigation); Richard V. BURNES, Assistant District Attorney in GARRISON's office who has been extremely active in GARRISON's investigation (GARRISON said BURNES is the "expert" on the Dealey Plaza phase of the investigation); and John HOSMER, former judge and prosecutor from Marshfield, Missouri on whom we have no further information.

The lawyers said that their information had come during two days of talks with BOLDEN who was sentenced in Chicago two years ago to six years in prison for having conspired to sell official information in a counterfeiting case.

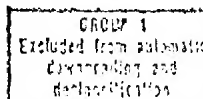
BOLDEN's attorney claimed that BOLDEN had told him that he had been sent to prison after having been refused permission to tell the Warren Commission about the alleged information.

There is no security file on Abraham W. BOLDEN but references to three newspaper articles in May 1964 were traced and revealed the following information.

The WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS for 21 May 1964 reported that Abraham BOLDEN, 29, first Negro assigned to the Secret Service detail guarding the President, was charged with trying to sell a file to a man indicted for counterfeiting. BOLDEN said he was framed because he intended to reveal details of heavy drinking and general laxity among Secret Service agents assigned to President KENNEDY. BOLDEN said he was going to tell his story to the Warren Commission. U. S. Attorney Edward HANRAHAN observed that the accuracy of BOLDEN's charges should be judged by the fact that the man who made them was silent from 1961 until after he was arrested.

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The CHICAGO AMERICAN for 26 May 1964 reported that Abraham W. BOLDEN refused to discuss charges of laxity against fellow agents in an interview with Warren Commission investigators. It was reported in the same article that BOLDEN's attorney, George HOWARD, said he would direct his client not to testify if subpoenaed before the Warren Commission in Washington and added that BOLDEN accepted this advice. This refusal was unexpected and contradicted BOLDEN's statement at the time of his arrest.

In subject NEW YORK TIMES article of 6 December 1967 Mark LANE said that the Secret Service had received information that an attempt on Mr. KENNEDY's life would be made on a visit by the President to Chicago.

The CHICAGO AMERICAN for 26 November 1963 in the column "Daily Diary" by Maggie DALY reported a rumor that the assassination of President KENNEDY was planned at a meeting on Chicago's west side in the early part of February 1963 by a dissident Cuban group and that the FBI was investigating this group.

A memorandum dated 29 November 1963 in the file of one Richard S. CAIN concerning an interview he had with a representative of the Agency's Chicago Contact Office contained the following unevaluated information. CAIN, at that time employed by the Cook County Sheriff's Office, said that the Cook County Sheriff's Office received information that early in 1963 the Chicoms took over the operations in the U. S. for the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. In February 1963 a secret meeting of the Committee was held at 907 South Spaulding, Chicago, under the direction of Richard CRILEY, Secretary of the Chicago Chapter. At this meeting the assassination of the President of the U. S. was discussed. (Note: Richard CRILEY was identified as a member of the State Committee, Communist Party of Illinois, as of February 1961. An FBI report of 26 May 1960 concerned a trip by Richard CRILEY and his wife, Florence Louise CRILEY, to Havana, Cuba in April 1960.) CAIN then added the information that Lee OSWALD purchased the rifle that was used in the assassination of President KENNEDY in March 1963. CAIN said that the Cook County Sheriff's Office had not established that OSWALD was at the February meeting. However, they had strong suspicions that OSWALD was in Chicago in April (?). CAIN said there was animosity between Sheriff OGILVIE and the FBI and that Sheriff OGILVIE had directed CAIN to conduct an investigation into the matter himself; to approach the FBI "officially" and ask for information on the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. CAIN inferred in the interview that if his investigation established anything definite, the Cook County's Sheriff's Office would probably inform the FBI. The Agency Chicago Contact Office representative pointed out to CAIN that the FBI had responsibility for the assassination investigation and that all government agencies were to assist the FBI by turning everything over to the Bureau. CAIN replied that he had to carry out his orders but inferred he might be able to get the information to the FBI "off the record."

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Agency interest. When he visited the Mexico City Station unannounced in April 1962. He claimed to have been employed by OSS in 1943 and by the Frente Revolucionario Democrática (Agency sponsored Cuban exile organization) in 1961. These claims cannot be substantiated by Agency records. He told the Station he had investigative Agency in Chicago with branch in Mexico for purpose of police training Mexican government agents in investigative techniques and use of lie detector. CAIN also said he was investigating Communism in Central American country. No clearance was requested or granted. WH Division at this time for CAIN's use. Subsequently, in June 1962 information was received that CAIN was deported by Mexican authorities for following violations: Carrying loaded revolver and brass knuckles; impersonating Mexican government official (he had identification as investigator for Mexican Treasury office); and violating his tourist permit by working at his detective office and at Mexican Treasury office.

In September 1963 a request for contact clearance was received from the Agency Chicago Contact Field Office and the above information was furnished Office of Operations for consideration in determining the extent and level of CAIN's use. In addition to the interview detailed above, CAIN also furnished eight reports concerning exile Cuban activities in the Chicago area. In May 1967 the Agency received information that the FBI was investigating CAIN because of his alleged ties to the Mafia in Chicago and the DCS Chicago Office was advised to discontinue any contact with CAIN. The DCS Chicago Office replied that their last contact with CAIN was in 1963.

The 1 September 1967 issue of LIFE magazine contained an article entitled "Brazen Empire of Organized Crime," in which it is stated that Sam GIANCANA, Head of the Chicago Cosa Nostra, is "still running things by remote control from a hide-out in Mexico..... where he poses as Riccardo SCALZETTI. The real SCALZETTI, GIANCANA's erstwhile chauffeur and courier, is more familiar to Chicagoans as Richard CAIN, a well known former Chicago policeman and more recently a private investigator." (Note: OS indices are negative on Riccardo SCALZETTI). CAIN's RI file contains a request for a name check on which it is stated that CAIN claimed association with 64 newspapers and LIFE magazine for whom he said he was going into Cuba for Escambray story on PRD there. This claim is not corroborated anywhere.

The LIFE magazine articles on the "MOB" triggered an investigation into the crime syndicate in Louisiana and is being run concurrently with GARRISON's assassination investigation. The LIFE articles claim that GARRISON is "friendly with some MARCELLO henchman." He was the guest of Mario MARINO, mobster for MARCELLO, at a Las Vegas hotel. GARRISON denied knowledge of MARINO's connection with MARCELLO.

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